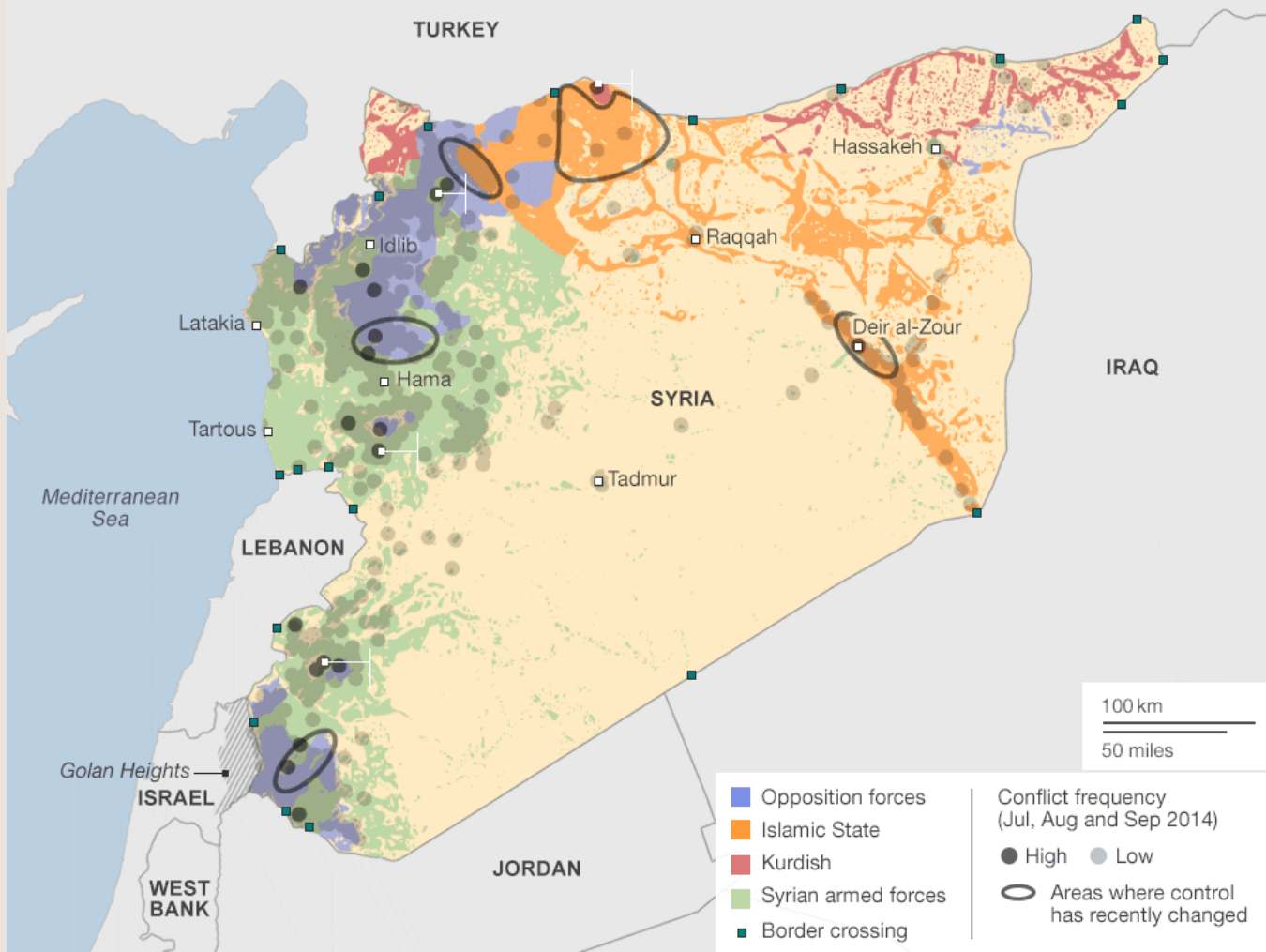




The UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA IN SYRIA AND THE EMERGENCE OF ISIS

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Abstract

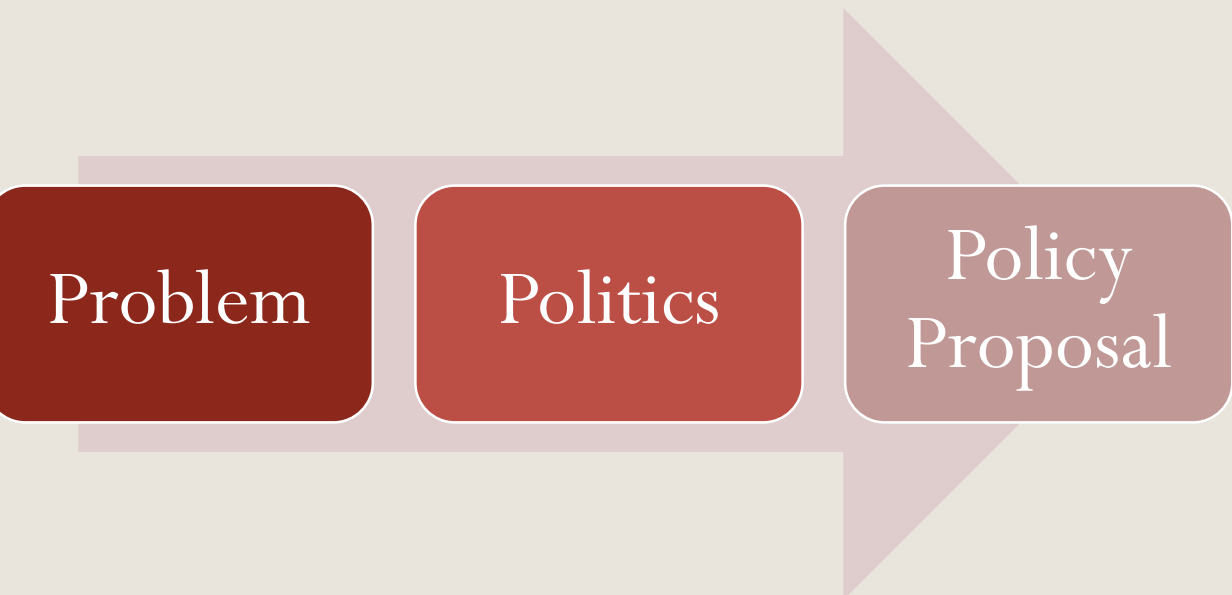
The crisis in Syria led in Fall 2013 to the diplomatic intervention of two of the most powerful nations in the world, the United States and Russia, to address the problem. This article provides insight into why they entered the scene because Arabs could not resolve the problem among themselves. The Syrian Crisis has resulted in the realignment of foreign players, the preservation of the Assad government and in ISIS. Russia was willing to protect Syria as its political ally, The US condemned nuclear non-proliferation, protected its energy sources from the Arab region and chose at that time to avoid another Iraq-type war. .

Key Questions

- What are the key sources of conflicts between US and Russia?
- Who are the primary and secondary actors in the Syria crisis?
- What are the dominant interests of the US and Russia in resolving the Syria crisis?
- What are the possibilities of collaboration in light of ISIS and Ukraine?

Analytical Framework

John Kingdon’s Streams and Windows Model



Main Arguments



Main Contributors to the Historic Conflict Between US and Russia

US and Russian conflicts were unspoken or de facto based on ideological differences. The term “Cold War” was coined due to a frigid relationship between the two countries in the 1950s. International political rules called for multilateral leadership to maintain stability and peace. However, the dominance of the US and Russia was reduced to a bipolar struggle for hegemony that spanned from the 1945 to 1991.

- Distinct differences existed in the political systems. Crisis was managed and war avoided.
- Capitalist imperialism was viewed by the Soviets as the source of competition, tension, and conflict between US and Russia
- Soviet’s takeover of East European States partially in response to NATO.
- Superpower Conflict and the Nuclear and Missile arms race.
- .

US-Russia Interests in Syria



The US has interests in settling the conflict in Syria because of some factors:

- 1) Chemical weapons threat and humanitarian concerns;
- 2) The conflict in Syria is a threat to US allies and to regional stability, and there is fear of the rise of a regional hegemony in Iran.
- 3) Acts of terror in the region have intimate links to ISIS which is headquartered in Syria and has a growing regional and global reach.

By contrast, Russia closely allies with the Assad government because it is selling military weapons to Syria. To continue to protect its commercial interest, Russia may lend support to Assad’s military..

Conclusion

Curve of the Conflict US-Russia

The US and Russia are on the verge of unstable peace. Relations need preventive diplomacy and crisis diplomacy as per Lund’s conflict curve. There was not the potential of a durable peace between the two countries since 1917. The most recent deadlocks between them were the Syrian Crisis followed by the Russian takeover of Crimea in Ukraine.

Solution

Option 1. Assad is being pressured to step down by the international community but to no avail. The veto of China and Russia on the UN resolution has encouraged President Assad to go on with his military offensives against anti-government forces.

Option 2. An all-out war Against the Assad Government. The Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces is now on its move to legitimize. This option is increasingly unlikely with the strengthening of ISIS. It is neither in the interest of the United States nor of Russia to see ISIS gain political control of Syria or any of its neighbors.

Option 3. “Let it burn” as is said in Conflict management. Let the Arabs resolve it by themselves and minimize US and Russian involvement. This is increasingly unlikely because of the way in which ISIS activity has proliferated and destabilized nations in the r



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